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## **Sen. Jelinek agrees with changes to teacher background check legislation**

**LANSING** – Sen. Ron Jelinek, R-Three Oaks, testified Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee in favor of a bill that would require reasonable measures be undertaken to ensure the accuracy of conviction reports issued by the Michigan Department of Education.

“This is an important issue that needs to be addressed, due to the number of problems that have been reported by educators and administrators with these conviction reports,” Jelinek said. “This legislation addresses those issues by keeping the records private for a few days before being released to the public. This will allow school districts to verify the records and discuss them with teachers in case of any mistakes.”

House Bill 5675 specifies that certain records would only be exempt for 14 days after the date the record was received by a school district, intermediate school district, public school academy or nonpublic school. After that period, the records concerning sexual or physical abuse, and any felony conviction would be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act.

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